Productivities and opportunities in horticulture sector

3390. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of land under horticulture in different States and Union Territories during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) the growth of productivity of land in terms of horti-produces during this period;

(c) the role of National Horticulture Mission in modernizing technology for horticulture and in processing the fruits and vegetables so produced; and

(d) the steps Government contemplate in furthering job opportunities in the field of horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The year-wise details of area, production and productivity of horticulture crops during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given below:

Year	Area (000 ha)	Production (000 MT)	Productivity (MT/ha)
2005-06	18713	181814	9.71
2006-07*	18980	186872	9.85
2007-08*	20195	206084	10.20

* Figures of 2006-07 and 2007-08 are provisional.

(b) The productivity of horticulture crops has increased by five per cent during this period.

(c) The National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is facilitating the holistic development of horticulture by promoting latest technologies involving production and supply of good quality planting material through tissue culture as well as nurseries, area expansion with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, organic farming, protected cultivation, integrated pest management/integrated nutrient management along with creation of infrastructure for post harvest management and marketing. The post harvest management component includes the setting up of primary/mobile processing facilities. Besides, the cluster approach adopted under mission provides opportunities for setting up of food processing units for fruits and vegetables.

(d) The Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 1100.00 crore under the National Horticulture Mission during 2008-09 for taking up various activities involving production and productivity enhancement, post harvest management and marketing which in turn will create job opportunities in the field of horticulture.

National Food Security Mission

3391. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new scheme as National Food Security Mission;

(b) if so, the salient objectives of the Mission and details of the new scheme indicating road map for implementation thereof;

(c) the details of magnitude of implementation envisaged, if any, of the scheme, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the States left uncovered, if any, under the scheme indicating reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched from Rabi, 2007-08 in the country. Presently, this Scheme is in operation in 311 districts of 17 States. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) aims to enhance the production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes, respectively by 2011-12.

The NFSM-Rise is in operation in 136 districts of 14 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh (11 districts), Assam (13 districts), Bihar (18 districts), Chhattisgarh (10 districts), Gujarat (2 districts), Jharkhand (5 districts), Karnataka (7 distrits), Kerala (1 district), Madhya Pradesh (9 districts) Maharashtra (6 districts), Orissa (15 districts), Tamil Nadu (5 districts), Uttar Pradesh (26 districts) and West Bengal (8 districts).

The NFSM-Wheat is in operation in 141 districts in 9 States *viz.* Bihar (25 districts), Gujarat (4 districts), Haryana (7 districts), Madhya Pradesh (30 districts), Maharashtra (8 districts), Punjab (10 districts), Rajasthan (15 districts), Uttar Pradesh (38 districts) and West Bengal (4 districts).

The NFSM-Pulses is in operation in 170 districts of 14 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh (14 districts) Bihar (13 district), Chhattisgarh (8 districts), Gujarat (11 districts), Haryana (5 districts), Karnataka (13 districts), Madhya Pradesh (20 districts), Maharashtra (18 districts), Orissa (10 districts), Punjab (7 districts), Rajasthan (15 districts), Tamil Nadu (12 districts), Uttar Pradesh (19 districts) and West Bengal (5 districts).

The districts for the implementation of NFSM have been identified based on some criteria. For NFSM-Rice, districts which have more than 50,000 ha area under Rice and productivity less than State average were identified. For NFSM-Wheat, the districts with irrigation coverage more than 50% under Wheat and productivity less than State average were identified. Similarly for NFSM-Pulses, existing larger area under Pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and replacement of rainfed upland paddy and rice fallow and the irrigated area under crops were taken into consideration for identification of districts.

The NFSM programme is not under implementation in respect of the States/UTs as they do not fulfil the criteria indicated above.

Organic food

3392. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that foodgrains and vegetables can be grown without chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, what step Government is taking to familiarize the farmers about it;

(c) whether Government is also aware that organic food is healthy since there is no residues of pesticides and so far better in taste and quality;

(d) if so, whether Government is taking any step to switchover to organic food; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme of "National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF)" is under implementation since October, 2004. The scheme has components on training of farmers on organic farming, field demonstrations on organic inputs and farmers fairs and creation of awareness through seminars/ exhibitions/publicity through print and electronic media.